(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto along with the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of 2007, following the Third Assessment Report in 2001 contains observations based on the Studies of trends in the physical and biological environment and their relationship to regional climate changes. The Report acknowledges the limitations and gaps in terms of the limited number of systems and locations considered; constraints in identification of changes due to external forcing on account of larger natural temperature variability at the regional than the global scale; and a notable lack of geographic balance in data and literature on observed changes, with marked scarcity in developing countries. Given the stated constraints, the Report notes incidence of increasing damage from coastal flooding; of coastal wetlands and mangroves; projected increased flooding due to glacier melt in Himalayas; and decreased river flows due to glacier recession. The Study adds that the impacts have not yet become established trends.

(c) Recognizing the criticality of containing green house gas emissions, the Central Government has accorded host country approval to 599 Projects in the sectors of Energy Efficiency, Fuel Switching, Renewables, etc. since its inception under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects.

(d) The Central Government has initiated a number of steps in terms of undertaking studies including the studies on glaciers in response to the reported situation.

Poaching of Asiatic Lions in Gir Forest

†2785. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI AJAY MAROO;

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the fact of recent reports of poaching of Asiatic Lions in Gir Forest;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the investigations made so far;

(d) whether Government have been able to identify the persons or group behind the poaching; and

(e) the causes of recurrent poaching in forest reserves and national parks despite recent legislative measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three incidents of poaching of lions have been recorded on 3/3/2007,30/3/2007 and 14/4/2007 involving poaching of total 8 lions.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Governments, the C.I.D. branch of Gujarat Police has been entrusted with enquiry of poaching of the lions. Two offences have been registered in connection with poaching of Asiatic lions in Gir Sanctury and total 18 accused have been arrested.

(e) The main cause of poaching of wild animals are very high prices of wildlife produce in the clandestine international market and increased man-animal conflict due to pressure on wildlife habitats.

Relocation of Asiatic Lions

2786. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the fact of recent reports of poaching of Asiatic Lions in Gir forest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering relocating the Asiatic Lions to another location;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have identified the location for relocation; and

(f) whether the relocation of Asiatic Lions has commenced?